

## **Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality**

Date Prepared: 8/7/14  
Prepared by: Amber E. Gillum, Acting State Director  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
P.O. Box 1520  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

DOB: 9/30/11      Race: W      Gender: F

Type of Report:        X   Fatality         Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 8/11/12

### **Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality**

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 8/8/12

Summary of Allegations: On 8/8/12, SCDSS received a report alleging that an 18 month old child was admitted to the hospital and was not responding. The reporter stated that the child had a large amount of blood in her head. The reporter also stated the child has blood behind her eyes and bruises on her neck and arms.

Date Investigation Initiated: 8/8/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for neglect by the mother. The case was also indicated for physical abuse by the mother's live-in boyfriend.

Date of Case Decision: 9/20/12

Basis for Case Decision: The mother's live-in boyfriend was arrested for the homicide of the deceased child. The decision was also based on the forensic interviews of the deceased child's siblings. The interviews revealed the children told the mother that the live-in boyfriend was hurting them. The mother failed to protect the minor children from her live-in boyfriend. The mother tested positive for marijuana.

### **The Department's Response After the Fatality or Near Fatality**

SCDSS placed the deceased child's siblings with relatives as alternate caregivers through a Safety Plan.

SCDSS offered parenting classes, substance abuse treatment and counseling, random drug testing, family and individual counseling, and case management and monitoring through a Family Preservation Services Case.

Custody of the deceased child's siblings was returned to the mother. The case closed on 3/27/14.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality. Note: State law prohibits disclosure of records or information contained in unfounded reports.

Case ID #: 0001096018

Date Investigation Initiated: 7/27/08

Summary of Allegations: On 7/27/08, SCDSS received a report concerning the mother's husband. The reporter alleged substantial risk of physical abuse and substantial risk of mental injury by the mother and her husband. Allegedly, the mother and her husband got into a physical altercation on 7/27/08 and an 11 month old child was in the middle of the altercation. Two children were in the home at the time. Law enforcement was called. The children were temporarily placed in the home of a family friend. The mother went to the hospital. The husband was arrested for criminal domestic violence.

Case Decision: The case was indicated for substantial risk of physical abuse by both parents.

Basis for Case Decision: The decision was based on the forensic interviews of the siblings. The mother failed to protect the minor children from her boyfriend. The mother also tested positive for marijuana.

The ongoing safety plan stated that the mother was the primary caregiver and protector of the children. The father/husband was able to have telephone contact with his daughters. The father had supervised visitation with his daughters. The mother was not permitted to supervise the visits. The conditions of the parents' bonds prohibited contact with the children.

SCDSS did not offer or provide services because the mother and children moved out of state.

This case is closed. The mother moved out of state with the children.